

**Powell-Deer Lodge-Granite
County FSA**
1002 Hollenback Rd, Suite B
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
Phone: (406) 846-2337
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County Committee Members

Steve Graveley – LAA 1-1
Barb Conn – LAA 1-2
Marlin Gilman – LAA 1-3
Carl Johnson – Chairman – LAA 1-4
Phil Ralston – LAA 1-5

FSA Office Personnel

Gary Thompson – ext. 233
Sandra Witt – ext. 232

Dates to Remember:

October – CRP Payments begin
being issued

October 8 – Office Closed (Columbus
Day)

October 15 – CDP Signup Begins

October 26 & 27 – Farmers Union
Annual Convention, Great Falls

November 2 – Final date for COC
ballots to be mailed to producers

November 12 – Office Closed
(Veterans Day Observed)

November 11-13 – Montana Farm
Bureau Annual Convention, Missoula

November 14-16 – Montana
Association of Conservation Districts
Annual Convention, Bozeman

November 22 – Office Closed
(Thanksgiving Day)

December 1 – NAP application
closing date for Honey

December 3 – COC ballots must be
returned by close of business

December 4-7 – Grain Growers
Annual Convention, Great Falls

December 14-16 – Stockgrowers
Annual Convention, Billings

December 25 – Office Closed
(Christmas Day)



Farm Service Agency

Powell-Deer Lodge-Granite County October 2007 Newsletter

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Signup Begins October 15

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. **Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.**

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.



Annual Notice of Payment Eligibility to Producers

FSA program benefits may not be provided to any producer until the applicable payment eligibility determinations are made.

A producer will remain ineligible until all required forms for the specific situation are provided.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility determinations may be initiated by the FSA County Committee or requested by the producer. Statutory provisions require that entities earning program benefits provide FSA with the names, addresses, and ID numbers for the members of the entity. Furthermore, entities earning payments must inform their members of the requirements for designating "permitted entities."

All Payment Eligibility forms (CCC-502) submitted by a producer are subject to spot check through the End-of-Year Review process. Farming operations selected for an End-of-Year Review will be required to submit documents to verify their contributions of capital, land, equipment, labor, and management.

Individuals, joint operations, or entities which are determined to be "not actively engaged in farming," will be ineligible for Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) Payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), Marketing Loan Gains, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments, and possible Disaster related program payments such as the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Payments and the Quality Loss Program (QLP) Payments.

Spouses may be determined to be two "Persons" only if this determination is requested in writing and the applicable requirements are met by each spouse

NAP Final Date for Honey Producers



The final date for honey producers to file a 2007 NAP Application for Payment is December 1, 2007 or within 30 days of the placement of hives. There are no late-filed provisions for the Application for Payment. A complete application for payment includes acceptable verifiable production evidence. If the production is not sold by January 2, 2008, a measurement service can be requested to verify the production.

COC Election

Ballots for the county committee (COC) election in administrative areas LAA 1-3 and LAA 1-4 will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2. LAA 1-3 candidate is Marlin Gilman and LAA 1-4 is Carl Johnson. The final date to submit ballots to the FSA county office is December 3. Please vote and have your voice be heard for USDA programs to fit the needs of the local community.

National Animal Identification System (NAIS)

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) developed policies for implementing NAIS for protecting U.S. livestock and poultry from potentially devastating pests and diseases through an identification system that enabled faster response with more precision.

NAIS consists of three components: 1) premise registration, 2) animal identification, and 3) animal tracking. Premise registration is the foundation of the NAIS and is the first component to be implemented.

Premise registration is voluntary, free, quick, and does not commit producers to participate in the other components of NAIS. To find out how to register a premise, visit USDA's NAIS website at

<http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup

CRP is a voluntary program that offers annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term resource-conserving covers on eligible land.

Continuous signup is land devoted to certain conservation practices that may be enrolled at any time, not subject to competitive bidding and are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. Length of contract is no less than 10 years and no more than 15 years.

After eligibility criteria is met, continuous signup incentives include: an up-front Signing Incentive Payment (SIP) of \$100 to \$150 per acre (depending on contract length), a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the eligible installation costs, Cost Share Payment up to 50 percent of the participants' cost of establishing approved practices and Annual Rental Rate Payments.

Certain land and producer eligibility requirements must be met to be eligible.

Example of acceptable land would be certain marginal pastureland that is suitable for use as a riparian buffer or for similar water quality purposes

For additional information contact our office.

The Powell-Deer Lodge-Granite County FSA has issued a total of \$278,138.00 for CRP Continuous since 2000.



New Features on the Web

USDA provides their customers an opportunity to do business electronically 24 hours a day seven days a week over the Internet.

With a Level 2 access, USDA customers may receive their 1099-G form, review any collections or debts they may have with USDA and also review an itemized listing of their USDA payments.

Receiving a Level 2 account is a simple process. By entering your name, address and answering a few questions, customers may have access to the above mentioned items.

In addition to receiving payment information, USDA customers may also send forms from the comfort of their home and signup for programs without visiting a USDA service Center.

Complete step-by-step instructions for obtaining a Level 2 access, retrieving payment information, submitting forms and signing up for certain programs is available by logging on to the Montana FSA Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

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Postage Block

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Container Approved for Honey

Honey producers requesting marketing assistance loans may now pack their honey in approved five-gallon plastic containers. The containers must hold about 60 pounds of honey, have a tight fitting cover, have strong handles, and be lined with an FDA-approved low-density polyethylene liner.